



The TURNTABLE

July 2010

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Important Dates

Ladies Luncheon

First Thursday of
Every month. Con-
tact Marge 533-4595

July 24– 5PM

Mark Twain Train
Interpretation on the
lawn, then ride with
Mark and Dave

August 7th & 8th

Sierra #3 weekend!
#2 runs at 11, 12, 1
& 2, Sierra #3 runs
at 3 and 4:30, with
photo-run-bys

August 21st

Singing Rails' Rail-
road Music Festival
With The Black Irish
Band 7 – 8pm
Cactus Bob & Prai-
rie Flower 5:45
And Lori Brandon &
Chris Miller 4:30
\$12 admission, free-
for volunteers.

July Birthdays

7 Alan Nordstrom
9 Lisa Smithson
10 Wayne Penn
18 David Rainwater
19 Marc Abbott
20 Ardyth Brady
23 Ken Rattene
24 Carl Rudolph
25 Marty Gerbasi
25 Ron Konklin
26 Bill Ulrey
27 Marie Alkema

Sierra No. 3 Returns in Style



© Dave Henry/CSRMIF

Most of you were there, so you know what an amazing weekend we had. 2090 riders over the weekend, and lots and lots of smiling, happy people.

Virtually everyone had something to be proud of. The cars looked beautiful, the caboose rode like a dream, the crew expertly managed two simultaneous consists on a tight schedule. The roundhouse, shop, and track vehicle interpreters all did an outstanding job, and visitors stayed for hours to enjoy all we had to offer. It was truly a weekend that will go down in history.

The star of the show, The Sierra No. 3, demonstrated its allure to all of us who had never had the privilege to see it in operation, and reminded old friends why it was worth it. As steam engines are apt to do, the #3 had a few minor hiccups over the weekend, but the roundhouse crew showed the dedication and precision of a Nascar pit crew, and interpreters were on hand at every occasion to show, once again, that what we do is not just operate the locomotives, but operate and maintain in the historic facility. A truly unique experience.

Best of all, the weekend was a testament to the commitment and quality of our paid and volunteer staff, and the work of a true team.

Railtown Membership at Highest Level Ever!

In June, Railtown membership exceeded 580, the highest its ever been. The increase can be attributed to the efforts of our new membership table, staffed by Gene Arnold and Janet Hart, and the efforts of store and ticket counter staff, including Ken Roy, Laverne Coon, Susan Eller, Lori Rainwater, Shirley Rainwater and others.

While it is not our policy to “hard sell” memberships, its not difficult to see that membership is a good value. For a group of four adults, the purchase of a membership actually costs less than a single train ride, and permits the members to return and ride all year long! There are additional membership benefits, such as discounts and advance notice of special trains and special events. Members who join at the \$100 level also receive

Memberships are important to us, because members receive information about park happenings all year long, through the newsletter and email notices. This helps us develop a relationship and hopefully they'll stay as supporters for a long time. In these tough budget times, we need all the friends we can get!

Thanks to everyone for helping us grow our membership!



So You Want to Listen to Trains.... By Jerry Tannhauser

Here are some frequencies for your scanner.....

Sierra Railroad/Railway	160.755
Skunk Train	160.650
Napa Valley Wine Train	160.575
McClellan RR	160.755 & 161.145
Western Railway Museum	161.355
Big Trees RR	160.995
Niles Canyon RR	160.695
BNSF Stockton	160.650
BNSF Stockton	160.560
UP Oakdale/Escalon	161.550
UP Niles	160.800
UP OAK	160.740
CALTRAIN	160.815
McCloud RR	160.695
Yreka Western	161.070

If you don't have a scanner, but do have a computer, try this web site: <http://www.railroadradio.net/>

Caught in the Act– Thank Yous!

Kevin Zimmerman for rushing up from Modesto to fill a last-minute engineer shift on 26th. Jerry Tannhauser for installing new radio in Black Diesel Locomotive (last month). This month he wired the freight shed, organized all of the catering for the 4th of July weekend, installed radio in Sierra #3, coordinated radio rental, installed temporary phone lines for #3 event and so much more! Rick Guantone for stepping and as crew caller for the Fire Patrol, and taking the time to contact every member. Thanks to all our crew leaders for the 4th of July weekend, including Marge Lovingfoss, David Ethier, Ron Konklin, Susan Eller, Rick Guantone, Kevin Zimmerman, Laverne Coon, Ron White, David Deutch and others. Thanks to Stan Eggink for the stellar lettering on the 1265 (and boy was it nice to show it off over 4th of July weekend). Thanks to Delta Pick Mello for all of her hard work and excellent planning for the 4th of July, and Al DiPaulo, Tony Stroud, Don Chakerian, Don Shapiro and Joe Siemons for riding the rescue. Thanks to Dave Henry for the beautiful photos. Thanks to Marty and Gary for leading up the crew who did such a great job on the caboose, and Dave Deutch, Darryl Bramlette, Bill Baum and others who worked so hard on the cars. . .

California State Fair– Railtown Day, Thursday July 29th

Every year, the Tuolumne County Visitor's Bureau sponsors an award-winning booth. Volunteering for a 4 hour shift gets you a free pass for the fair, and free parking. The shifts are 12-4, and 4-8. Please let Dave Rainwater know if you are interested in being a part of this, we are also arranging car pools. (Due to State Fair Megans' Law requirements, volunteers have to have a records check in advance, and it takes a few weeks.) It will be a great time to let California know about the Sierra #3 and the caboose!



THE RAILTOWN TURNTABLE



All in the Family

The Passing of a Good Friend and Co-worker– Virginia Bispo

Virginia Stamm-Bispo passed away on Thursday, July 1 at Sonora Regional Medical Center.

She worked as the Foundation's assistant store manager since February of 2000. Over time, she took on many of the operational responsibilities of Railtown, including the coordination of the volunteer program, the annual volunteer appreciation event, record-keeping for the Railroad Operations, Drug and Alcohol program testing, volunteer training, and many special events.

She married Joe Bispo, Assistant RR Operations Manager, in April 2009.

She had been battling a rare viral illness, which attacked her immune system. She was cremated and in a private family ceremony will be laid to rest in Portland, Oregon.

Cards can be sent to the family care of : Joe Bispo & Family 10956 Green Street #127, Columbia, Ca. 95310.

Joe also has requested, that if anyone would like to make a donation on Virginia's behalf they can send it to either of two places:

Hospice of The Sierra- 20100 Cedar Road North, Sonora, 95370 or

Meals on Wheels-540 Greenley Road, Sonora, 95370.



John Rand update

John wants everyone to know that he is back in Sonora, recovering after two surgeries on his neck to repair injuries caused by a vehicle accident last month. He called the park to make sure everyone knows that he hopes to be back at Railtown after 8 weeks of recovery. He thanks everyone for their cards and flowers. If you want to drop him a note, it can be sent to John Rand, c/o Jackie Gustafson 409 E. Oakside Drive, Sonora CA 95370

A Trip Through History on the Virginia & Truckee Railway

By Ken Vogel

After many years of planning and more than 4 years of construction, the Virginia & Truckee Railway has at last reached it's goal (almost). It's temporary station is located in Dayton just 4 miles east of Carson City. As we pulled out of the station and crossed the trestle over Highway 50, we picked up speed for the hills ahead.

The locomotive has a familiar look and sound as it wound it's way through the mountainous historic mining areas of Nevada. Engine #29, a 1916 Baldwin (2-8-0) is an older sister to Railtown's #28. The trip to Virginia City is 21 miles over much of the original right-of-way taking 1 ½ hours. The car host pointed out historic facts of the Comstock mines in Gold Hill, Silver City, Virginia City and American Flat. Upon reaching Virginia City we had a 3 hour layover before the return trip (more than enough time for lunch and sight seeing). Fares for the steam ride are \$40 for seniors and veterans and \$48 for adults. Reservations are recommended. The trains 200+ capacity is usually filled.

Santa's Starlight Express

Yep, its time to start planning. If you want to be part of this team, please let Kim know. We'll be using an event planning process based on the one we used for the **Return of the Sierra No. 3**.

A Few Words About Bottled Water

Its important to stay hydrated. For your health and safety we make sure that bottled water is available for all our paid and volunteer staff, especially the engine crew, who are subjected to especially harsh environmental conditions.

But, did you know that over the 4th of July weekend, we spent almost as much money on bottled water, than on fuel and lubricants for the locomotives. Particularly dismaying to staff at the end of the day, was the number of partially used water bottles that had to be disposed of.

We all know that it is important to keep costs low, to ensure that we have the maximum of funds available for restoration and all of the special projects we hope to accomplish.

You can help! We encourage everyone to use cups, pitchers, coolers and reusable bottles wherever possible. The tap water at Railtown is tested by TUD once a week, and is of excellent quality (we even think it tastes better than the bottle water).

Also, please remember that the beverages in the store are inventoried and are for purchase only.

The savings you create could just be what we need to fund our next project!





Volunteer Profiles : Jeanette Foster

When we take the time to get to know our fellow volunteers, we are often amazed at the experience and background many of us have had. New volunteer Jeanette Foster from Valley Springs brings a lot of experience. She jumped right in with our Tuesday work crew primarily helping as a painter. She has been an instant success as a Car Host and says she'll be Tour Guiding through the Roundhouse with a little more study.



Her family history can be traced back to an early Spanish pioneer who sailed with Father Junipero Serra on his historic journey to the Monterey area in 1770 to establish missions. A member of the Ohlone native tribe, she was born in French Camp, and lived many years in Fair Oaks where she raised 5 kids with her husband Dallas. They worked up and down California in their own commercial and residential construction business. Jeanette has experience as a volunteer in many fields, including children's hospitals, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Red Cross. After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, she went there to help with 300 other Red Cross volunteers, sheltering and attending to the needs of some 6000 displaced persons at one location. "It was a very meaningful, emotional and rewarding experience helping people who had lost everything. If you are a people person, you see and hear things that change you and enrich your life. I love to interact with people, to be part of the community and add to our California history".

Just remember. . . There's a right way and a wrong way to do everything. The wrong way is to keep trying to make everyone else do it the right way.
—Colonel Potter M*A*S*H*

Scenes From The Railtown Volunteer Field Trip, June 2 to the Western Railway Museum near Rio Vista hosted by Andy Alkema & Reuben Smith. Make plans to attend our next field trip — to be announced.





PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested



TO:

Docent Hotline- (209)-984-4408 **Crew Caboose-** (209)-984-0352

If you are unable to show up for your shift, please call the crew caboose (on operating days) or docent hotline.

Docent Site- <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

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Kevin Zimmerman, (DSLE)	557-0294	Kevin@obriensmarket.com
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Rob Buchanan, Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor, Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	dtaylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater, Park Aide (and Docent Coordinator)	984-4408	darainwater@parks.ca.gov
Lisa Smithson, State Park Curator I (DER)	984-8719	lsmithson@parks.ca.gov
Ron White, Crew Caller Car Hosts	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net
Dave Tadlock, Crew Caller, Covered Service Employees	383-1353	1oldmotorman@comcast.net
Rick Guantone, Crew Caller, Fire Patrol	763-2617	Guantone@comcast.net

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request